

Prayer for the ending of the day

Here at the end of the day, in the stillness of nightfall, we pray.
Lord, our Lord, you created us and you know us.

We are your children.

The preparation

Eternal God, you have lowered the canopy of night
and its gentle shadows cover us with your peace.

May the dews of heaven heal our wounds
and wash the tears from our eyes.

And may the burning light of Christ
banish for ever the darkness from our souls,
that we may be at peace.

Old testament

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
(Isaiah 9:2)

For the LORD your God is living among you.

He is a mighty saviour.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Psalm 67

Or other suitable psalm. There should be no mid-verse pauses.

¹ May God be merciful and bless us.

May his face smile with favour on us. *Interlude*

² May your ways be known throughout the earth,
your saving power among people everywhere.

³ May the nations praise you, O God.

Yes, may all the nations praise you.

⁴ Let the whole world sing for joy,
because you govern the nations with justice

and guide the people of the whole world. *Interlude*

⁵ May the nations praise you, O God.

Yes, may all the nations praise you.

⁶ Then the earth will yield its harvests,
and God, our God, will richly bless us.

⁷ Yes, God will bless us,
and people all over the world will fear him.

At the end join in

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now
And ever shall be.
Amen.**

New testament

Jesus said: Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. (1 Peter 5;6,7)

‘St Patrick’s breastplate’ *(we listen as it is sung)*

or

‘Be thou my vision’ *(we listen as it is sung)*

or

‘Lord of my heart’ (said)

Lord of my heart
Give me vision to inspire me
That, Working or resting,
I may always think of you.

Lord of my heart
Give me light to guide me
that, at home or abroad,
I may always walk in your way.

Lord of my heart
Give me wisdom to direct me
That, thinking or acting,
I may always discern right from wrong.

Lord of my heart
Give me courage to strengthen me
That, amongst friends and enemies,
I may always proclaim your justice.

Lord of my heart
Give me trust to console me
That, hungry or well fed
I may always rely on your mercy.

Lord of my heart
Save me from empty praise
That I may always boast of you.

Lord of my heart
Save me from worldly wealth
That I may always look to the riches of heaven.

Lord of my heart
Save me from self-confidence
That I may always seek your protection.

Lord of my heart
Save me from vain knowledge
That I may always study your word.

Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall me
Rule over my thoughts and feelings
My words and my actions.

Prayers

Our Father, the day is almost over
and the shadows of night fall softly around us.
We praise you, our Father, for the provision
of food, and shelter, and fellowship,
and for all other evidences of grace that have been ours.

Amen.

We thank you for the many blessings of the day,
for the people we have met, or simply spoken to,
and the good friends who have helped us on our way;
for special moments of joy that have made our hearts glad,
and the opportunity to show your love to others.

May our hearts always receive such gifts from your hand,
with true humility and thankfulness.

Amen.

Our Father, we long to serve you aright.
We are truly sorry for those moments where we failed you.
Your forgiveness is our souls delight
for with you we lie down in peace this night.

Amen.

The blessing

**May the peace of the night enfold me,
so that I may be bathed in love.
The love of the Father who made me,
the love of the Son who died for me.
The love of the Spirit who dwells within me,
bless me and keep me.**

Amen

The invocation

May heaven come close as we sleep this night,
and angels surround us with Christ's pure light.

Lord may I be wakeful in the morning
to begin a new day for you;
cheerful at sunset for having done my work for you;
thankful at moonrise and under starshine
for the beauty of your universe;
and may I add what little be in me
to the kingdom of your Son.

Amen